

What is claimed is:

1. A method for reducing bandwidth utilization in a system for distributing digital continuous media information from one or more servers, where users of the system are connected to a shared continuous media buffer and the buffer is shared amongst the users based on usage, consisting of the steps of:
 - i.. The user requesting a continuous media stream from the server;
 - ii. The server periodically sending encoded packets to the user representing portions of the media stream;
 - iii. A buffer shared by multiple users capturing the packet into one or buffers for redistribution to the user.
 - iv. Servicing later requests arriving within a bounded interval for the same buffer.